

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12277 031027Z

14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /035 W

----- 071923

R 030858Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2991

AMCONSUL NAHA

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

UNCLAS TOKYO 12277

HICOMTERPACIS PASS TO STATUS LNO (BERGESEN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, BBAK, TQ, JA

SUBJECT; SATAWAL-SATAWAL-Saipan-OKINAWA TRIP VIA TRADITIONAL CANOE

REF: STATUS LNO 225, 080910Z AUG 75

TOKYO 11804, 250555Z AUG 75

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED PLANNED YAP-OCEAN EXPO CANOE VOYAGE WITH Kiyoto Shaku on August 28 and 29. We do not doubt his bonafides but believe it possible he may have to scrap project for lack of funds. In general, we believe project is worthy of encouragement.

2. THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION HAS CONFIRMED THAT ESCORT VESSEL, THE FUJIYAMA MARU, A 21-METER YACHT OWNED BY ACTOR HISAYA MORISHIGE, IS QUITE SEAWORTHY. ITS SKIPPER, MICHIHARU UTSONOMIYA, IS A MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION VETERAN AND IS RATED A "MASTER OF THE FIRST GRADE". SHAKU TOLD US THAT VOLUNTEER CREW HAS BEEN TRAINING ON YACHT FOR PAST MONTH AND IT IS NOW READY TO DEPART FOR TTPI. ALL CREW MEMBERS HAVE US VISAS. SHAKU WILL MAIL DETAILS ON YACHT TO HIS YAP FRIENDS.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12277 031027Z

EM KAN ARAYAMA, DIRECTOR OF OCEAN EXPO'S TOKYO OFFICE,

TOLD EMBOFF THAT EXPO WILL BEAR EXPENSES OF YAPESE WHILE THEY ARE ON OKINAWA (HOTEL, MEALS, CLOTHING, POCKET MONEY) AND HAS PROMISED TO HELP DEFRAID MOST OF COST OF RETURN AIR FARE. SHAKU, WITH HELP OF ARAYAMA'S STAFF, IS RAISING REST OF NECESSARY FUNDS FROM PRIVATE DONORS (REF B). HE SAYS THAT IN THE EVENT SUFFICIENT FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE BEFORE CANOE'S DEPARTURE FROM SATAWAL (NOW PLANNED FOR LATE SEPTEMBER), PROJECT WILL BE CANCELLED.

4. SHAKU IS A SINCERE, PERSONABLE YOUNG MAN WHO OPERATES A SMALL CAMERA FILM SALES AND PROCESSING COMPANY, ATATSUKA SHOKAI, IN TOKYO. THE JAPAN-YAP FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION IS SHAKU'S AVOCATION OF FOUR YEARS' STANDING, WHICH GREW OUT OF A LONGER FRIENDSHIP WITH YAP DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROBOMAN. ARAYAMA OF OCEAN EXPO CONSIDERS SHAKU TRUSTWORTHY.

5. ARAYAMA HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO REQUEST OF OCEAN EXPO BERTHING SPACE FOR CANOE AT "EXPO PORT" (EVIDENTLY A NECESSARY FORMALITY). WE PROPOSE TO MAKE THAT REQUEST PROVIDED TTPI SHARES OUR JUDGMENT THAT PROJECT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST BERTH FOR CANOE.
HODGSON

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